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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/150,549	09/09/1998	WILLIAM J. JOHNSON	DA9-92-108B	6592

7590 12/03/2001

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/150,549

Applicant(s)  
Johnson et al

Examiner  
Huynh-Ba

Art Unit  
2173



– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 12, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7, and 9-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7, and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

BA HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US patent #5,798,752 (Buxton et al).

- As for claims 1, 7: Buxton et al teach a method/system for execution of a predefined process within a data processing system having a keyboard 25, a plurality of objects 52 and a pointing device 27 having buttons 32 (figure 1) and an associated movable cursor 55 displayed therein, comprising steps/means for specifying a predefined process by recording user inputs. The user inputs specifying a user defined executable process which may be applied to one or more of the objects (col. 23, line 12 - col. 24, line 44). The predefined process is associated with the cursor 55. Executing the predefined process on objects 52 in response each subsequent graphic

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selection of a suitable objects 52 and depression of a button by a user using the cursor (col. 14, line 19, see "Click-Through Buttons"). Buxton et al fail to clearly teach the association is disabled in response to another user input. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to implement the disabling the association in response to a user input to Buxton et al. Motivation of the implementation is for disabling the macro execution and go on with other tasks.

- As for claims 3, 4, 9, 10: Feedback are provided to the user as a visual aid for determining whether the predefined process may or may not be executed on the particular object 52 selected by the cursor (col. 35, lines 27-51). Buxton et al fail to clearly teach that the determination is in response to the user selection of the object. However, Official notice is taken as implementation of feedback such as error message is well known in computer operation (see US patent #6,061,058 for example). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation of visual feedback to Buxton in response to executing the predefined process on a selected object. Motivation of the combining is to inform the user whether or not the process can be executed on the selected object.

- As for claims 5, 11: The user defined process may be applied to one or more objects within the data processing system (col. 36, lines 15-19).

- As for claims 6, 12: The defined process is dragged to object 52 (figure 1; col. 36, lines 15-19).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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### Inquires

Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 746-7238 may be used for formal After Final communications, (703) 746-7239 for Official communications, or (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official or draft communications. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huynh-Ba whose telephone number is (703) 305-9794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8.00AM to 4.30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703) 308-3116.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Huynh-Ba  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2173  
11/26/01

BA HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER